

downtown Tulsa, knowing their children wouldn't be welcome. They didn't want their children to experience the pain and humiliation of being told to leave a store or to not sit at that end of the counter.

Her mother once told her, though:

Never let the color of your skin get in the way of achieving your goals. If you put your mind to it, you can do anything and be anyone.

Maxine was part of the first class to graduate from Booker T. Washington High School, which, at the time, was an all-Black school. She was proud of the education she received at Booker T. and spent 2 years studying at Wiley College before returning back to Tulsa.

She got a job working for Congressman James Jones, an opportunity that sparked some political ambitions in her. In her fifties, she returned back to school and received a bachelor's degree from Langston University in 1985. Despite being decades older than her fellow classmates and occasionally being mistaken to be the professor in her class rather than one of the other students, she finished her education.

In 1986, she ran for the Oklahoma State Senate and became one of two women to be elected for the first time into the Oklahoma State Senate as an African American.

Maxine was a true trailblazer. She worked hard for her constituents, and she championed education and the arts.

Her life was full of some poetic justice, quite frankly. She grew up in the Greenwood District in the wake of the Tulsa Race Massacre, but in the late 1990s, she sponsored the State legislation that created the Tulsa Race Riot Commission. She also cofounded the Greenwood Cultural Center. After she left office, she continued to fight for the victims of the massacre and chaired the committee overseeing the search for the burial sites—work that is still going on today.

As a young teen, she recalls going into the Tulsa Union Depot and seeing drinking fountains labeled "Colored" and "White." But as a State senator, she sponsored the legislation that created the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, which now occupies the old Tulsa Union Depot building, where they don't have drinking fountains labeled "Black" or "Colored" and "White."

As a student, she attended segregated schools. As a Senator, she championed the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program or what we now call Oklahoma's Promise—a scholarship program for low and middle-income students in Oklahoma. Oklahoma's Promise helped over 75,000 young Oklahomans pursue higher education. She left quite a legacy.

Two weeks ago, on February 8, Oklahoma lost this transformational giant. Maxine Horner passed away at the age of 88, and she will be certainly missed by her families, and she will be missed by Oklahoma.

REMEMBERING VICKI MILES-LAGRANGE

Mr. President, I did mention that in 1986 she was one of two ladies who were

African American who were elected in the State senate that year—the first ladies who were African American to be elected into our State senate. The other lady was a dear friend, Vicki Miles-LaGrange. She is younger. She was born in 1953 in a segregated hospital in Oklahoma City.

She grew up in a loving home with her parents and older sister. Her parents were well-respected educators in Oklahoma City. They both got their master's degrees from the University of Oklahoma in 1955, just 7 years after Ada Lois Sipuel won her case at the Supreme Court to allow Black Oklahomans to even attend the University of Oklahoma.

As a young girl, she was interested in government. And when her friend's mother, Hannah Atkins, decided to run for the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Vicki helped out, even as a teenager. She became what they put together called Hannah's Helpers, a group of young people who campaigned for Hannah Atkins. And Atkins won her race and became the first Black female to serve in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Vicki attended McGuinness High School. She stayed involved in a little bit of politics there, participating in Girls State. Asking a mutual friend, Patrick McGuigan, who I am convinced had a crush on her when they were in high school—asking Patrick about that time, he recounts the stories and has written even in some of his writings about how Vicki went to Girls State and was elected governor of the Oklahoma Girls State Program that year, but when the sponsoring organization decided who they were going to send to Girls Nation, they for the first time did not send the governor; they chose to send the lieutenant governor. That is what Vicki faced as she grew up.

She attended Vassar College, and at 18 became a delegate at the Democratic Oklahoma State Convention. It was there that she met Carl Albert, who told her that if she ever ended up in DC to look him up and to come work for him. Well, that is all you would have to tell Vicki. She attended Howard University Law School, walked right into the Speaker of the House's office one day here at the Capitol and convinced Carl Albert that he should remember his offer, and she became an intern in his office immediately while she pursued her law degree.

This was not an unusual thing for Vicki. After graduating law school, she clerked for a Federal judge in Houston, joined the criminal division of the Department of Justice, where she helped prosecute Nazi war criminals.

In 1983, she decided she wanted to return to Oklahoma. So she returned, though she was rejected for an office in the U.S. Attorney's Office—ironic because later she became the U.S. attorney for the Western District. She walked right into the district attorney's office, Bob Macy's office, resume in hand, no appointment, and asked to

be able to speak with him. And she waited outside of his office until he came out of his office. He came out for lunch and walked out with a job offer after that.

In 1986, she decided to run for State senate. This was the same year Maxine ran as well. Her dad, a former industrial arts teacher, helped fix up her campaign headquarters. Her mother and her mother's best friend were her campaign managers, and she won that race and unseated Senator Porter, a 22-year incumbent.

When you look at Vicki's life, there are a lot of firsts. Along with Maxine Horner, she was the first African-American female to be elected to the Oklahoma State Senate. In 1993, she became the first African-American woman to become the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. A year later, in 1994, President Clinton appointed her to be the U.S. district judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. She was the first African-American Federal judge among the six States that make up the Tenth Circuit of that Federal jurisdiction.

She was appointed by Chief Justice William Rehnquist in the U.S. Supreme Court as a member of the International Judicial Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Shortly after, when she became a Federal judge, the horrific genocide unfolded in Rwanda. Vicki advocated for an independent judiciary in Rwanda and was part of a group of international legal experts who were sent to Rwanda to help reform the system. She made eight trips to Rwanda at her own personal risk. In 2006, she was awarded the Fern Holland Courageous Lawyer Award from the Oklahoma Bar Association.

In 2013, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the highest honor an Oklahoman can receive for their contributions to the State.

She received many other awards, including the Oklahoma Bar Association's Women Trailblazer Award.

In the early 1960s, she was so inspired by President Kennedy's inaugural address that she wrote to him to say how happy she was that he was President. One of his advisers actually wrote her a letter back. She kept that letter, and, in fact, she hung it in her office while she was a judge. She was quoted as saying that, above all else, she is a career public servant. There was a newspaper article when she took her very last case in 2018 as a Federal judge, and it quoted back to 1994 when she was in front of this Senate for confirmation hearings, being the first African-American judge ever in the Tenth Circuit. And she said this:

My race will not determine my decisions.

She said: I don't want to be known as a good Black judge. I want to be a respected and good and fair judge.

Vicki Miles-LaGrange, that is exactly how we remember you.

Oklahoma is proud of these two ladies and what they have done. We are

proud to call them fellow Oklahomans in the trailblazing that they have done.

Thanks for your leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, we are all representative of heroes and idols and, clearly, my colleague from Oklahoma appoints several out from his home State.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I complete my remarks before we go to the vote this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MIGUEL A. CARDONA

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to support the nomination of Miguel Cardona to be the next Secretary of Education. He has the background, qualifications, and the temperament to serve in this position. Dr. Cardona has a meteoric rise from a classroom teacher to a school principal, to a commissioner of education for the State of Connecticut.

I am glad the President has nominated him to lead the Education Department in such a challenging time for our Nation's schools.

COVID-19 related school closures have led to significant learning losses, with millions of children stuck at home, trying to learn. Parents are at their wits' end because many of the adults running public schools across our country are failing to actually follow the science. We should be seriously talking about reopening schools as quickly as possible. That is what the science tells us, and that is what students need.

Dr. Cardona testified before the Senate HELP Committee. He stressed the need for students to get back to school, and I am glad that is now, finally, a bipartisan mission.

At the same time, each school district, college, university, State and local community faces different circumstances in dealing with this pandemic. Trying to treat them as a monolith instead of providing flexible advice for States and localities to use if applicable and useful would be a mistake.

Dr. Cardona said he understands that one-size-fits-all mandates from Washington won't work. Dr. Cardona also agreed to be responsive to our oversight requests and to keep us updated on his plans and Department action. We won't agree on everything, but we should be able to find places where we can agree and we can move forward.

I support the nomination of Dr. Cardona and look forward to working with him, and I encourage my colleagues to support his nomination as well.

SECURITY

Mr. President, on a personal note, it is time to take the fences down around this Capitol. To leave them up—it is not about security. It is about an attempt to say: We are really, really important. We work here.

Let me say what I think most of my colleagues believe. We aren't. We are

like everyone whom we represent and whom Lincoln referred to as common folks.

At one time, this was a shining city on a hill, and today we have made it into a bunker on the Hill. The message that sends globally, the message that it sends domestically, is wrong. It is time for us to take these 4,000 national guardsmen and let them go see their families versus for 24 hours a day to patrol when we don't even provide them a cafeteria that is open at night. They eat out of vending machines or they bring what they eat.

We thank all of these individuals for the safety they have provided us after a horrendous January 6 event. Now it is past time for us to open up this campus and to allow DC, the District of Columbia, to fully open up to the tourism that they thrive off of.

I thank the President for his indulgence.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 16, Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Jon Ossoff, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Sherrod Brown.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Miguel A. Cardona, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 67 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Capito	Cornyn
Bennet	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Blumenthal	Carper	Duckworth
Booker	Casey	Durbin
Brown	Cassidy	Feinstein
Burr	Collins	Fischer
Cantwell	Coons	Gillibrand

Grassley	McConnell	Sanders
Hassan	Menendez	Schatz
Heinrich	Merkley	Schumer
Hickenlooper	Moran	Shaheen
Hirono	Murkowski	Sinema
Hyde-Smith	Murphy	Smith
Johnson	Murray	Stabenow
Kaine	Ossoff	Tester
Kelly	Padilla	Tillis
King	Peters	Van Hollen
Klobuchar	Portman	Warner
Leahy	Reed	Warnock
Lujan	Romney	Warren
Manchin	Rosen	Whitehouse
Markey	Rubio	Wyden

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Graham	Rounds
Blackburn	Hagerty	Sasse
Blunt	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Hooven	Scott (SC)
Braun	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	Paul	Young
Ernst	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Inhofe	Sullivan
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 66, the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 18 through 25 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Anthony P. Angello
Col. Frank L. Bradfield, III
Col. Howard Travis Clark, III
Col. Robert W. Claude
Col. Lisa M. Craig
Col. Mitchell A. Hanson
Col. Jennie R. Johnson
Col. Andrew J. Leone
Col. John D. McKaye
Col. Craig McPike
Col. Kevin J. Roethe
Col. Regina A. Sabric
Col. Michael T. Schultz

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. John M. Painter